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- (2) the titles to the Psalms; (3) the passages in reference to music (see above); (4) 1 Chron. 16: 7-36; Luke 20: 42-44; Acts 1: 16, 20: 2: 25-31, 34; 4: 25, 26; Rom. 4: 6-8; Heb. 4: 7.
4. **Writing:** Consider (1) the possibility of the poetic, musical, architectural, historical, priestly, and prophetic activity of these times existing without the art of writing; (2) 1 Sam. 21: 13; 2 Sam. 11: 14, 15; 2 Chron. 2: 11; 1 Chron. 27: 24; 23: 27; 24: 6; 29: 29; 1 Sam. 10: 25, etc.

STUDY XXIV.—THE PROPHETIC ELEMENT CONNECTED WITH SAMUEL, DAVID AND SOLOMON.

- Remarks:** 1. It is appropriate to close this series of "studies" with a brief résumé of the material which it furnishes in the line of prophecy.
2. The work attempted must, of necessity, be only a general classifying of the most important points, under a few heads.
3. For a full discussion of the material, the reader is referred to Briggs, *Messianic Prophecy*; Orelli, *Old Testament Prophecy*; Elliott, *Old Testament Prophecy*.

First Step: Texts upon Prophecy.

1. Let us read those detached verses in the Books of Samuel, which have to do with the question of prophecy. These texts are 1 Sam. 2: 27; 3: 10; 9: 9; 10: 5, 6-12; 14: 42; 19: 19, 20, 23; 28: 6; 30: 7.
2. Examine them a second time, with a view to seeing what light they throw upon the following questions:
 - (1) What different words are used to describe the prophet? (Prophet, seer, man of God?)
 - (2) How did the prophet receive the divine revelation? (Dream, vision, word of mouth, enlightened spiritual discernment?)
 - (3) What information is furnished about the order of the prophets, and prophetic schools?

Second Step: Prophecies.

1. Make a fresh study of *Hannah's Hymn*, 1 Sam. 2: 1-10, under the following heads:
 - (1) Discover the particular circumstances under which the Hymn is said to have been delivered.
 - (2) Study the thought of each verse, and then combine the verses into sections as follows:
 - (a) vs. 1-3. The character of Jehovah,—holy, incomparable.
 - (b) vs. 4-8. The power of Jehovah in the world.
 - (c) vs. 9, 10. His treatment of the wicked and the righteous.
 - (3) Consider now whether the Hymn contains any reference to the supposed occasion of its writing, viz., *Samuel*.
 - (4) Explain how, fifty years before the anointing of a king in Israel, there could be so definite a reference to a king as is contained in v. 10.
 - (5) Consider whether this reference to a king may not be of a prophetic character, and the whole Hymn find its connection with Samuel in view of his work in founding the monarchy.

- (6) Notice, finally, the climax of the poem : *The Lord shall judge the ends of the earth, that he may* (this is the correct rendering) *give strength unto his king and exalt the horn of his anointed.*
2. Study again 1 Sam. 2 : 35, 36 :
- (1) Recall the circumstances, viz., the religious condition of things, the lives of Eli's sons.
 - (2) Read the prophecy and note its general meaning : destruction of Eli's house, raising up of another family.
 - (3) Gather from 1 Sam. 14 : 3 ; 21 : 2 ; 22 : 9 ; 22 : 20-23 ; 1 Kgs. 2 : 27, the facts concerning the subsequent history of Eli's house.
 - (4) Take up (a) the strong argument in favor of interpreting the passage of *Samuel*, based upon the connection of the preceding and following chapters ; and (b) the objections founded on the difficulty of applying to Samuel such terms as "sure house," "walk before mine anointed forever." "priest."
 - (5) Consider the interpretation which would find the fulfilment in Zadok's line, and through this in the Messiah.

Third Step : Prophecies (continued.)

1. Study 2 Sam. 7 : 11-16 (1 Chron. 17 : 10-14) :
- (1) Examine closely the circumstances leading up to the prophecy.
 - (2) Compare the parallel passages in Sam. and Chron.
 - (3) Decide upon the meaning of each verse, e. g.,
 - v. 11. Shalt thou build a house for *me*? Rather *I* will build a house for *thee*.
 - v. 12. When thou art dead I will establish thy seed after thee.
 - v. 13. He shall build a house for me ; I will establish his throne forever.
 - v. 14. I will be his father, and he shall be my *son*; if necessary I will punish him ; but
 - v. 15. I will never leave him, as I left Saul.
 - v. 16. Thy house, thy throne shall be established forever.
 - (4) Now select the great ideas contained in the passage, and those which especially characterize it.
 - (5) In conclusion, determine whether it was fulfilled in Solomon, in the whole royal line of David, including the Messiah, or in the Messiah alone.
2. Study 2 Sam. 23 : 1-7, the last words of David :
- (1) Understand that before these words were uttered the Psalms which David wrote must have been sung.
 - (2) Examine the long, repetitious, yet very interesting introduction in vs. 1-3a.
 - (3) Study the *character* of the righteous ruler as described in vs. 3b, 4.
 - (4) What is the thought of v. 5 ? "Is not my house so with God, in view of the everlasting covenant, etc.?"
 - (5) Formulate, on the other hand, God's relation to the wicked, vs. 6, 7.
 - (6) Select, now, the great ideas of the passage, as they stand related to the Davidic dynasty.

Fourth Step : The Prophetic Order.

Certain aspects of this subject, in view of Samuel's connection with it, deserve study at this juncture :

1. What, after all, was the relation of Samuel to the order?

2. Consider the number and character of the prophecies and prophets before this period.
3. What were the "Schools of the Prophets"?* (1) The localities in which they were held ; (2) the subjects studied ; (3) the teachers' methods ; (4) the character of the students ; (5) their means of subsistence ; (6) the periods of history in which they flourished ; (7) their influence upon Israelitish history.

Fifth Step: The Work of the Prophet.

Only some of the more important aspects of the question may be noticed :

1. The various methods of communication to the prophets, e. g., (1) dream, (2) vision, (3) enlightened spiritual discernment.
2. The particular periods in the history of prophecy in which each of these methods was most prominent.
3. Their relative character ; which the highest ? which the lowest ?
4. The methods employed by the prophet in conveying his message to the people.
5. The work of false prophets in Israel : (1) its extent ; (2) its character.
6. Were there prophets outside of Israel ? In what respect did their work differ from that of Israel ?
7. The place of the work of the prophets in the divine plan of redemption.

Sixth Step: Prophecy.

Consider a few of the questions relating to prophecy :

1. What is it ? Are you satisfied with the definition " religious instruction " ?
2. What is the origin of prophecy ?
3. Distinguish between prophecy and prediction ; or are they synonymous ?
4. Distinguish also between a prophecy which is *directly* prophetic, and one which is *typically* prophetic.
5. How could men, in the Old Testament times, distinguish false from true prophecy ?
6. May some predictions be supposed to have been made from a study of history, past and present, and instinctively, as it were ?
7. What is the evidence of the fact that the prophecies had a supernatural origin ?

Remark.—It is not expected that at this stage of the work, the ordinary student will be able to answer to himself all the questions here indicated. They are intended rather to stimulate thought and to prepare the mind in a measure for a consideration of the material which will be obtained later.

Concluding Remark: In this series of studies, much valuable material has been omitted, because the original plan demanded a limitation of the amount to be used. It is believed, however, that enough has been furnished, if it has been properly mastered, to give a broad and, in the main, accurate idea of the history and the literature of the period of Samuel, Saul, David, and Solomon.

* See articles in Bible Dictionaries ; also *The Schools of the Sons of the Prophets*, by Ira M. Price, Ph.D., THE OLD TESTAMENT STUDENT, Vol. VIII, pp. 244-249.